

Appln. No. 10/666,904

Attorney Docket No. 10541-1892

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and reexamination of this application in view of above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

After entering this amendment, claims 16-22 remain pending.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite on the basis of what was intended by the phrase "non-parallel to the center line to endow zones at opposite sides of the core." Claim 16 has been amended to recite "non-parallel to the center line to form the core".

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite as to what was intended by the phrase "that endow opposite sides of the core with zones that have a defined longitudinal profile." Claim 19 has been amended to recite "non-parallel to the centerline to form the core with a defined longitudinal profile".

Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite as to what was intended by the phrase "with which the two laminations bounding the stack are respectively in contact comprise such tabs in contact with the respective tabs of the two laminations bounding the stack." Claim 21 has been amended to specifically recite "the ferromagnetic core as set forth in claim 20 in which the opposite longitudinal edges of the laminations comprise tabs in contact with the tabs of the two laminations bounding the stack."

Accordingly, it is believed that these rejections of claims 16, 19 and 21 are moot and should be withdrawn.

Further Claim Clarifications

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Prior to discussing the reference, it is believed that a brief discussion on the current form of the independent claims of this application is warranted. Original independent claim 16 of this application has been amended to clarify, more particularly to point out and distinctly claim that which Applicants regard as the invention claimed therein. Specifically, claim 16 now recites each lamination comprises opposite longitudinal edges that are non-parallel to the center line to form the core with a substantially frustoconical profile. Further, claim 19 now particularly points out and distinctly claims that each lamination comprises opposite longitudinal edges that form the core with a defined longitudinal profile.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 19-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,703,556, to Kikuta et al ("Kikuta"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

The Examiner has stated that Kikuta discloses a core structure for an ignition coil comprising a plurality of individual stacked flat laminations arranged parallel to a center line, each lamination comprises opposite longitudinal edges that are non-parallel to the center line to endow zones at opposite sides of the core with a substantially frustoconical profile. Although the Examiner rejected claim 19, the language of the claim rejected and quoted by the Examiner comes from claim 16. Therefore, the Applicants assumed that the Examiner has rejected claim 16 and not claim 19.

As to the rejection of claim 16, Kikuta does not disclose zones at opposite sides of the core with substantially frustoconical profile. As stated earlier, claim 16 has been amended to recite that each lamination comprises opposite longitudinal

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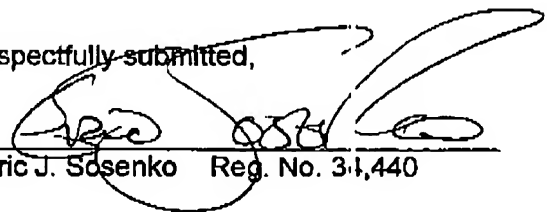
edges that are non-parallel to the centerline to form the core with a substantially frustoconical profile. As shown in Figure 3, and as described in column 3, lines 39-43 of Kikuta, silicone and steel plates are stacked one on the other each of which is a flat plate with its opposite end portions having a width *greater than that of the middle portion*. Therefore, the core cannot have a substantially frustoconical profile because its middle is thinner than its ends. From this, it is submitted that Kikuta fails to disclose a core with a substantially frustoconical profile. The rejection based thereon should be accordingly withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is requested.

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Date

Respectfully submitted,


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